How Can We Be Safe Around Equipment?

Avoid entering equipment operating areas.

Near moving, swinging, or ‘pinch point’ work vehicles:
- Obey markings and barricades in work space, stay outside “danger zone.”
- Never enter space unannounced.

Approach only after communicating with the operator:
- By radio.
- With hand signals.
- Wait until operator returns signal.
- Never assume operator sees you.

Ride on vehicles and equipment only in a proper seat designed for human occupancy.

What Else Can We Do?

Here are important issues:

- Avoid equipment ‘blind spots’ where workers on foot cannot be seen by operators.
- Respond to back-up alarms.

- Use spotters. Spotters warn operators about nearby workers and hazards.
- Understand the use, spacing, and maintenance of Temporary Traffic Control Devices (TTCDs).
- Check surroundings often, listen for warnings. Avoid distractions.
- Look out for each other, warn coworkers!

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How Do We Prevent Runovers/Backovers?

Workers should stay in protected areas:
- Stay on work side of barrier.
- Know proper path/course to leave for breaks.
- Stay away from open traffic lanes.
- Talk with others only in a safe area away from traffic.
- Get in/out of vehicles on non-traffic side.
- Plan emergency escape route and revise as needed.
- Park personal vehicle for safe access to work and to the vehicle.

Workers must always be visible.

How to be visible:
- Wear appropriate high-visibility garments.
- Wear hard hat, sleeved shirt, and other PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).
- Don’t stand over hill crest, in shadows, or other places where you may not be visible to motorists and operators.
- Lighting affects visibility. Drivers’ vision may be hindered by:
  - Bright sunlight, sun close to horizon.
  - Work lights, equipment lights, and the lights of oncoming traffic.

Safety supervisor will determine type.
- FHWA regulations require Class 2 or better garments on all jobs (FHWA: Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation).
- Retroreflective high visibility apparel meeting ANSI / ISEA* 107-2004 - Class 3 to improve visibility.

* ANSI/ISEA - American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association

- High visibility garments must be clean and in good condition.
- High visibility garments must fit and be closed in front.

Class 3 Apparel: For work when exposed to high speed traffic and/or conditions where visibility of workers may be reduced. For conditions where equipment operators perform tasks near pedestrian workers. Worker must be conspicuous through a full range of body motions at a minimum of 1,280 feet and identifiable as a person. Examples are flaggers, roadway construction workers, utility survey crews, and emergency responders.